

U.S. STRATEGIC NUCLEAR POLICY

AN ORAL HISTORY

PARTS 1 - 4
1942 - 2004

What are the origins of United States strategic nuclear policy? How has it evolved and what were the forces of change? This documentary explores these and other questions through the oral history of many of the key participants including Robert McNamara, Edward Teller, James Schlesinger, Andrew Goodpaster, Harold Brown, Richard Garwin and William Kaufmann. This is also a history of formerly Top Secret policy documents and many of these declassified papers are featured in this documentary.

Some aspects of policy evolved over time influenced by successive Presidential administrations, weapon systems and key historical events. Other key tenants have remained timeless. One of these is the concept of nuclear deterrence.

Parts 1 and 2 of the documentary discuss U.S. strategic nuclear policy from its origins in the targeting practices of World War II through the Cuban Missile crisis. Parts 3 and 4 continue its evolution to the current debate about the role of nuclear weapons in U.S. national security strategy.

An understanding of history guides us into a wiser future.



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PARTS 1 - 4

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